

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #75A-7 Building Date: 1922
Building Name: Forestville School
Location: 3101 Ritchie Road, Forestville, Maryland
Private/Office/Occupied/Excellent

Description:

The oldest part of the Forestville School is a square, one-story, frame gable-roofed building with entrance in the central bay of the three-bay south facade. This entrance is through a double door set in a projecting pavillion, and sheltered by a columned (one-bay-wide) porch. Above this porch is a central cross-gable in the roof. There are double 6/6 windows on each side of the central door. The building stands on a high basement foundation of molded cement block.

There have been many additions to the north side of this 1922 schoolhouse, but the original square classroom space is retained in the large high-ceilinged outer office of the present surveyor's office. This room has a complete ceiling of molded, patterned tin, painted white. The school building stands on a 1.28 acre triangular lot which includes an open lawn to the west; a rail fence and a line of evergreen trees separate the school lot from the Epiphany Episcopal Church lot which adjoins it to the west.

Significance:

There has been a schoolhouse at this location since before the establishment in 1865 of the Board of County School Commissioners. This schoolhouse was apparently rebuilt, as were all of the earliest school buildings, in the 1880's. By 1922 the Board of Education decided to replace the old Forestville School, and in April of that year a building committee was appointed. In August of the same year, the 1.28 acre lot was surveyed, and a location for the new building was determined. The new school was opened by the fall of 1923. Additional rooms were constructed later in the 1920's and 1930's. The school was closed in 1942 when a new brick school was constructed ca. 1/2 mile to the southeast; it was then used as storage space by the Board of Education, and finally sold to Epiphany Church in 1945. Since then it served as a church building until 1969 when it was sold to W. L. Meekins, Land Surveyor; it has since that time served as his office.

The Forestville School is particularly significant for the molded, patterned tin ceiling which remains intact in the original classroom. Although several alterations have been made to the interior of the school, the present owner has attempted to retain the historic integrity of the original classroom space.

Acreeage: 1.28 acre

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Forestville School

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 3101 Ritchie Road not for publicationcity, town Forestville vicinity of congressional district 5state Maryland county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture	<u> </u> museum
<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational	<u> </u> private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment	<u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government	<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial	<u> </u> transportation
	<u> </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military	<u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name W.L. Meekinsstreet & number 3101 Ritchie Road telephone no.: 736-7115city, town Forestville state and zip code Md.

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's Co. Courthouse liber 3703street & number Main Street folio 35city, town Upper Marlboro, state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Prince George's County Inventory of Historic Sitesdate 1974 federal state ☒ county localpository for survey records History Division, M-NCPPCcity, town Riverdale state Maryland 20737

7. Description

Survey No. P.G.#75A-7

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The oldest part of the Forestville School is a square, one-story, frame gable-roofed building with entrance in the central bay of the three-bay south facade. This entrance is through a double door set in a projecting pavillion, and sheltered by a columned (one-bay wide) porch. Above this porch is a central cross-gable in the roof. There are double 6/6 windows on each side of the central door. The building stands on a high basement foundation of molded cement block.

There have been many additions to this 1920's schoolhouse, but the original square classroom space is retained in the large high - ceilinged outer office of the present surveyor's office. This room is particularly remarkable now because of the complete ceiling of molded, patterned tin, painted white. Two small rooms, formerly cloakrooms, which flank the central doorway now serve as repositories for office machinery. The basement beneath this large first floor space is divided into small office spaces.

A three-bay-wide addition has been constructed to the north. On the west side in the northmost bay, a ground-level door leads into the basement level offices.

The Forestville School building stands on a 1.28 acre triangular lot, set apart from the densely developed commercial center of Forestville. The lot includes an open lawn to the west; a rail fence and a line of evergreen trees separate the school lot from the Episcopal Church lot which adjoins it on the west.

8. Significance

Survey No. P.G.#75A-7

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
				Local history

Specific dates 1922 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

There has been a schoolhouse at this location since before the establishment in 1865 of the Board of County School Commissioners. This schoolhouse was apparently rebuilt, as were all of the earliest school buildings, in the 1880's. The second building was typical of the plain frame rural one-room schoolhouses of that period.¹ By 1922 the Board of Education (which superseded the Board of County School Commissioners) decided to replace the old Forestville School, and in April of that year a building committee was appointed. In August of that year, the 1.28 acre lot was surveyed, and a location for the new building was determined.²

The new school was opened by the fall of 1923; in October of that year, R. E. Thomas was contracted to build a new Forestville schoolhouse for black children, using some of the lumber from the white schoolhouse just dismantled, together with new materials to be provided by Thomas.³ As early as 1924 an additional room was constructed on the Forestville School building and in 1933, two more rooms were added to the north.⁴ The school was closed in 1942 when a new brick school was constructed ca. 1/2 mile to the southeast. For three years the older frame school building was used for storage of desks by the Board of Education, and it was subsequently sold to Epiphany Church which occupied the adjoining land to the west. Because the original deed for the school property had been lost, however, the Prince George's Court of Equity had to validate the deed by which the school lot was conveyed. During these court proceedings, several Forestville residents testified that they, and in some cases their parents, had attended elementary school on that same site as far back as the 1880's.⁵

Epiphany Church used the school building until 1961, after which it was purchased and used by another religious group, the Evangel Assembly. In 1969, it was purchased by W. L. Meekins, Land Surveyor, and has since that time served as his office.⁶

(Continuation sheet)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G. #75A-7

P.G. County Deeds #3703:35, #2526:107 ; P.G. County Equity #14403.

Interviews with W.L. Meekins, Thomas S. Gwynn, Jr., and Dorothy Murray.

Journal, Board of County School Commissioners, 1865-1921; Board of Education, 1921-4'

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.28 acre

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting NorthingB

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Zone Easting NorthingC

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearlorganization History Division, M-NCPPCdate April 1984street & number 4811 Riverdale Roadtelephone 779-2011city or town Riverdale,state Maryland 20737

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

The Forestville School is particularly significant for the molded, patterned tin ceiling which remains intact in the original classroom. Such ceilings were built into other school buildings of this period, but another intact example has not at this time been discovered. Although several alterations were made to the interior of the school building during the time that it was being used as a house of worship, the present owner has attempted to retain the historic integrity of the main block, the original classroom.

Footnotes

1 Martenet Map of Prince George's County, 1861; Journal of the Board of County School Commissioners, Vol. I, pp. 140-178, 1880-1882; telephone interview with Thomas S. Gwynn, Jr., April 1984.

2 Prince George's Equity #14403; Journal, Board of Education. Vol. III, pp. 17-50, 1922-24.

3 Journal, Board of Education, Vol. III, pp. 17-50, 1922-24.

4 Ibid, Vol. III, p. 57; telephone interview with Dorothy Murray, April 1984.

5 Prince George's Equity #14403.

6 Prince George's Deed #2526:107; #3703:35.

16-454-7
1702145811

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

1. NAME

COMMON:

AND/OR HISTORIC: Forestville School

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 3101 Ritchie Road

CITY OR TOWN: Forestville

STATE: Maryland COUNTY: Prince George's

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work In progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____ _____
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4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: W. L. Meekins, Land Surveyor

STREET AND NUMBER: 3101 Ritchie Road

CITY OR TOWN: Forestville STATE: Maryland

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Prince George's County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Upper Marlboro STATE: Maryland

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: None

DATE OF SURVEY: ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE						
<p>The present school house is a twentieth century (c. ¹⁹³⁰1900) frame building on the site of a nineteenth century building. It is a rectangular building with a central gable on the main facade. The entrance porch is neo-colonial, with square brick posts supporting a pedimented roof. The gable is shingled and has a fan light. Large windows are paired on the gable ends and on either side of the entrance. On the back, a wing has been added.</p>						

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) c. 1930			
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Sociol/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Christopher Owens, Park Historian	
ORGANIZATION M-NCPPC	DATE 13 Sept 74
STREET AND NUMBER: 8787 Georgia Avenue	
CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring	STATE Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Chain of Title

Forestville School P.G. #75A-7

#3703:35
28 Mar 1969
Deed

Evangel Assembly, Inc. to W.L. Meekins; Parcel B, 1.28 acre by plat in Equity #14403 which grantor acquired from Vestry of Epiphany Parish by #2526:107.

#2526:107
19 Jan 1961
Deed

Vestry of Epiphany Parish to Evangel Assembly, Inc; Parcel B, 1.28 acre as per survey in Equity #14403.

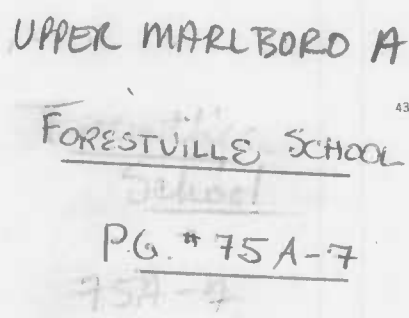
#14403
Dec 1945
Equity

Board of Education, plaintiff, vs. Vestry of Epiphany Parish, defendant: Defendant agreed to purchase 1.28 acre school lot, paid deposit but refused balance, because plaintiff is unable to give good deed. There is no instrument of record conveying said 1.28 acre to plaintiff. Court of Equity must validate deed, so takes testimony that said parcel has been school lot since 1880's. Court declares deed good, and deed is executed from Board of Education to Vestry of Epiphany Parish.

2001 14 NW
(WASHINGTON EAST)

338000m E

BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON PKWY 9 MI
339 1.5 MI TO INTERCHANGE 33





75A-7
300
P.G. #75A-7

Forestville School

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

April 1984

Southwest 3/4 elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



75A-7
3
P.G. #75A-7

Forestville School

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

April 1984

South elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



75A-7
92
P.G. #75A-7

Forestville School

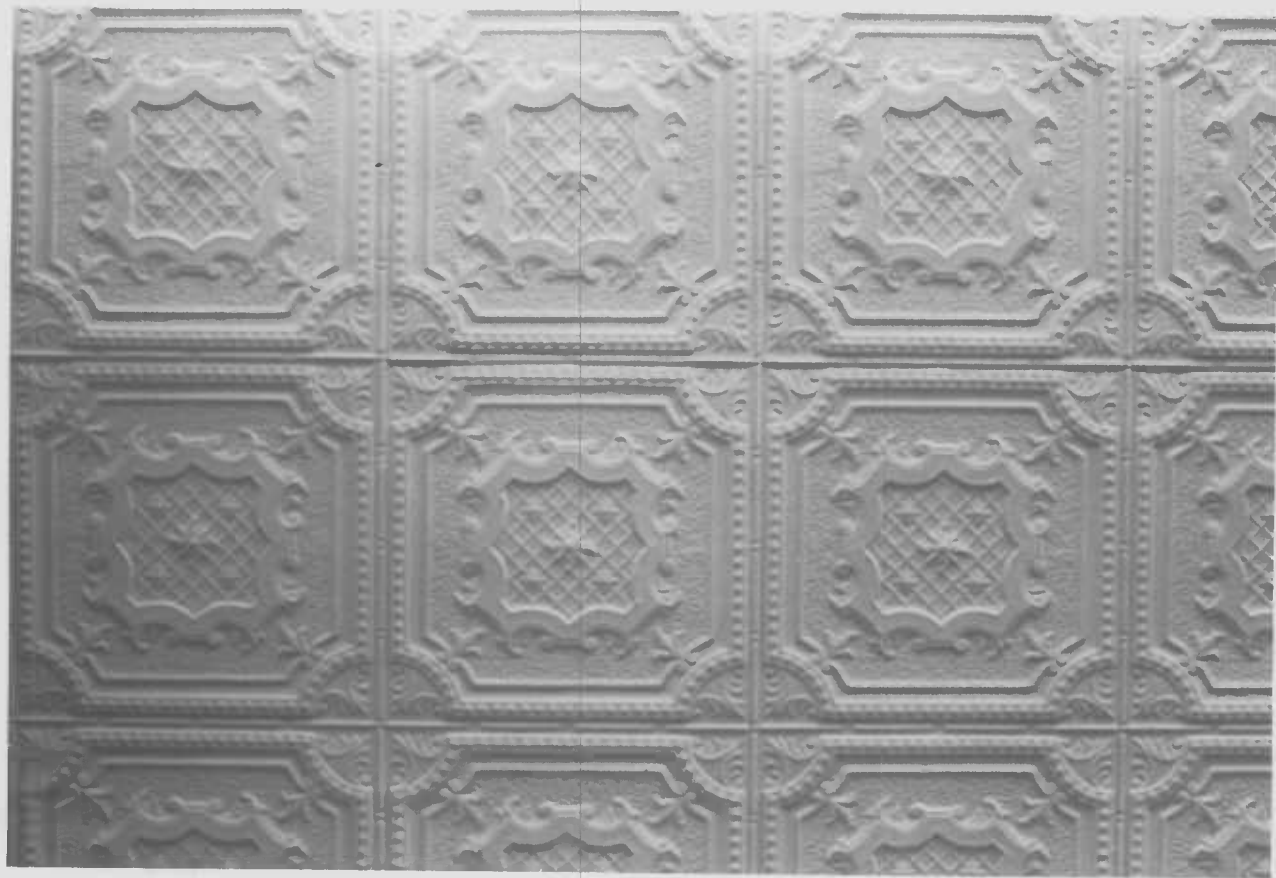
Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

April 1984

Southeast 3/4 elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



85-2
P.G. #75A-7

Forestville School

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

April 1984

Ceiling

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



NAME FORESTVILLE SCHOOL

PG: 75A-7

LOCATION 3101 RITCHIE RD FORESTVILLE, MD

FACADE SE

PHOTO TAKEN 9/13/74 MDWYER